

## City Manager's



## Weekly Update Friday, February 22, 2008

### Notes of interest:

**Thule meeting:** The City Manager and two City Council members met for dinner with representatives from Thule, the new owner of the former Valley Industries plant on South Stockton Street, and again Wednesday morning, along with staff from the Building Division. Thule made a verbal commitment to allow the City – at no cost – to convert the unkempt property at Stockton and Kettleman into a temporary community park. Interim Parks and Recreation Director Steve Dutra said Tree Lodi will provide trees. Service clubs in the community may be asked to do some of the other work.

**Webcam zooming closer:** The City is moving forward with a webcam at the Lodi Stadium 12 theater.

**All-employee meeting:** Employees were invited to meet with the City Manager at the library Friday for an update on city issues. About 40 employees attended, lured by fabulous door prizes such gift certificates to vendors of coffee, ice cream and pizza. No public money was spent on the door prizes. The topics covered included recent City accomplishments, some dark clouds on the financial horizon and major upcoming projects. The City Manager also answered questions from city employees.

**Faster library computers:** The library is installing DSL lines to service the public computers. Until now, those computers used the same Internet connection as the staff computers. With many library users watch videos online, the bandwidth was choked to the point where staff's use was impaired.

**Foreclosure notes:** The Building Industry of the Delta is asking for local governments to fund credit counseling and/or solutions for homeowners trying to avoid foreclosure. Lodi has avoided much of the foreclosure trouble facing other communities in the region. Notices of Trustee sales from Nov. 29 through Jan. 25 number 1,564 in San Joaquin County communities. Of that, 102 (6.5 percent) were in Lodi, or a ratio of 1.62 per 1,000 residents. Meanwhile, Lathrop had the highest percent per 1,000 residents (5.7 percent), followed by Tracy (3.34 percent), Stockton (3.02), Manteca (2.94) and Escalon (1.99). Ripon had the lowest ratio (0.50 percent).

**Wastewater pipeline:** Work on installing nearly 22,000 linear feet of pipeline – 11 feet at a time – is scheduled to start Monday. The repair work, costing approximately \$7.5 million, includes new manholes that will make it easier for future maintenance. The total cost include some \$1 million to clean and repair the 40-year-old concrete pipe to the point where the new pipe can be inserted.

**Weekly STAA update:** New street striping has been finished at Guild Avenue and Victor Road, making that intersection compliant with STAA truck regulations. The next issue is determining who is responsible for posting "Truck Route" signs. Public Works is

scheduled to meet with Caltrans once more to see if other issues can be resolved at the staff level.

**Police awards:** The Police Department will hold its award luncheon at noon Wednesday in the Community Room. The awards are as follows: Officer of the Year, Hans Van Noord; Employee of the Year, Bonnie Garcia; Volunteer of the Year, Roy Platt; Meritorious Service, Carol Roe and Nick Sareeram; Lifesaving Award, Shad Canestrino; Citizen's Award: David Rivas, Ruth Ruiz-Gomez and Lucia Montour.